

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/911,038

Examiner

Feben M. Haile

Applicant(s)

OKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2663

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed December 15, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Terminal Disclaimer

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on December 15, 2005 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application, which would extend beyond the expiration date of U.S. Patent No. 6,490,851 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-34 allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-34, the prior art of record fails to disclose, teach, or fairly suggest, "... a multi-stage switch having a third number of sub-schedulers, each of the third number of sub-schedulers being able to arbitrate matching an input port with an outgoing link of one of the plurality of central modules via an outgoing link of the input module including the input port, a method for scheduling the dispatch of cells stored in the virtual output queues, the method comprising for each of the sub-schedulers, performing a matching operation, if it has been reserved, to match a cell buffered at a virtual output queue with an outgoing link of one of the plurality of central modules, wherein the matching operation includes; matching the outgoing link with an outgoing link of one of the plurality of central modules, wherein each of the sub-schedulers requires more than one cell time slot to generate a match from its matching operation,

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and generate a wherein the sub-schedulers can collectively match result in each cell time slot.”

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

a) Hughes et al. (US 6,747,971), Crosspoint Switch with Independent Schedulers

b) Libeskind (US 2004/0165584), Multiple Stage Cross Connect Switch

c) Angle et al. (US 6,477,169), Multicast and Unicast Scheduling for a Network Device

d) Sawicz et al. (US 5,889, 775), Multi-Stage Switch

e) McApline (US 2002/0141427), Method and Apparatus for a Traffic Optimizing Multi-Stage Switch Fabric Network

f) Kakuma et al. (US 6,078,585), Multistage Connection Switch and Extension Method

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4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Feben M. Haile whose telephone number is (571) 272-3072. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00am - 3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ricky Ngo can be reached on (571) 272-3139. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JH 01/23/2006


CHI PHAM
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

1/23/06